UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/C.7/1991/L.9
2 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
25 March-4 April 1991
Agenda item 4

WATER RESOURCES

Ghana*, **: draft resolution

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

---

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar Del Plata Action Plan, 3/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/7 of 22 May 1989, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its twelfth session a comprehensive report on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan,

1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s; 4/

2. Takes note also of the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources; 5/

3. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan, including the objectives and recommendations contained therein, and recognizes that the New Delhi Statement, 6/ adopted at the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, which was held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990;

4. Stresses that the ultimate goal of the Mar Del Plata Action Plan is to promote the level of preparedness needed to avoid a water crisis of global dimensions by the better use and management of water resources, which are vital to development, in particular the development of developing countries;

5. Alarmed at the fact that at the end of the Decade one in three people in the developing countries still lacks access to water and sanitation services;

6. Emphasizes that developing countries, while mindful of their national responsibilities in the field of water resources, have suffered and will continue to suffer because of severe economic, social and environmental problems that undermine their development process and negatively affect their efforts to allocate resources to the development of water resources;

3/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

4/ E/C.7/1991/8.

5/ E/C.7/1991/10.

6/ A/C.2/45/3, annex.

7. Concerned that the current level of investment in the water resources sector is about $US 10 billion a year, while $US 50 billion are estimated to be required to reach full water supply and sanitation coverage by the year 2000;

8. Reaffirms the importance of an urgent need for new strategies in the domains of finance and technology to meet the growing demand for water and to achieve long-term sustainability of the water resources sector;

9. Urges multilateral financial institutions, funding agencies as well as donor Governments to increase their contribution to developing countries in the domain of water resources;

10. Stresses the need to strengthen and increase international assistance, including technical assistance, human resources development and exchange of information, to support the efforts of developing countries;

11. Urges the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to assign greater priority to activities, projects and programmes related to water resources undertaken at all levels by developing countries;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session, for consideration and follow-up, a report containing:

(a) A compendium of legislative mandates adopted by the various entities of the United Nations system relevant to water resources;

(b) A summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992;

(c) An update of the necessary information on activities of the United Nations system in water, with data categorized by region and country.